

CLAIMS

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1. An automated electronic filing system comprising:
- 5 a web server coupled to a wide area network;
- a receiving agency server coupled to said wide area network; and
- a client machine coupled to said wide area network for communication with said web server, such that said web server serves as an interface to said receiving agency server, said client machine providing information to said web server forming at least a part of an electronic document to be filed with said receiving agency server by said web server.
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2. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 1 wherein said web server and said receiving agency server communicate directly with each other without going through said wide area network.
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3. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 2 wherein said web server and said receiving agency server are implemented on the same machine.
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4. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 1 wherein said web server and said receiving agency server communicate with each other over said wide area network.
5. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 4 wherein said network includes a TCP/IP protocol network.
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6. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 5 wherein said TCP/IP protocol network includes the Internet.

7. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 4 wherein said web server and said client machine communicate with each other over said wide area network.

5 8. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 7 wherein said network includes a TCP/IP protocol network.

9. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 8 wherein said TCP/IP protocol network includes the Internet.

10 10. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 9 wherein communications between said client machine and said web server are at least partially encrypted.

11. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 9 wherein communications between said client machine and said web server are subject to authentication.

15 12. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 1 wherein said web server transacts a financial transaction with said receiving agency server on behalf of said client machine.

20 13. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 1 wherein said web server automatically provides a portion of said electronic document in response to a selection originating from said client machine.

25 14. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 1 further comprising an applicant machine coupled to said wide area network.

15. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 14 wherein said applicant machine communicates with said web server over said wide area network.

16. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 15 wherein communications between said applicant machine and said web server are at least partially encrypted.

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17. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 15 wherein communications between said applicant machine and said web server are subject to authentication.

10 18. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 1 wherein communications between said receiving agency server and said web server are at least partially encrypted.

15 19. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 15 wherein communications between said receiving agency server and said web server are subject to authentication.

20 20. An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 13 wherein said web server provides said client machine with a form that can be at least partially automatically filled-in in response to said selection.

25 21. A method for electronically filing documents comprising:
providing an HTML based form to a client machine coupled to a TCP/IP network;
at least partially automatically filling-in said form based upon input from said client machine;
verifying information on said form based upon stored heuristics; and
submitting said form to a receiving agency over said network.

22. A method for electronically filing documents as recited in claim 21 further comprising:

adding additional information to said form based upon input from said client machine prior to verifying said information.

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23. A method for electronically filing documents as recited in claim 22 further comprising obtaining an electronic signature prior to submitting said form to said receiving agency.

10 24. A method for electronically filing documents as recited in claim 23 further comprising paying a filing fee to said receiving agency in conjunction with the submission of said form to said agency.

15 25. A method for electronically filing documents as recited in claim 23 wherein said electronic signature is obtained from said client machine.

26. A method for electronically filing documents as recited in claim 23 wherein said electronic signature is obtained from an applicant machine coupled to said TCP/IP network.

20 27. A computer readable media including code segments for electronically filing documents comprising:

a code segment providing an HTML based form to a client machine coupled to a TCP/IP network;

25 a code segment at least partially automatically filling-in said form based upon input from said client machine;

a code segment verifying information on said form based upon stored heuristics; and

a code segment submitting said form to a receiving agency over said network.

30. A computer readable media as recited in claim 29 further comprising a code segment paying a filing fee to said receiving agency in conjunction with the submission of said form to said agency.